

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add new paragraphs [0023] to [0027] following paragraph [0022]:

[0023] As discussed previously, the present invention provides a coupling for connecting a driving machine part and a driven machine part, e.g., shafts, wheel hubs or the like, comprising an intermediate shaft and articulated lever couplings provided at the ends of the intermediate shaft. Each coupling has at least three identical articulated levers, engaging via elastic joints situated at their ends with the intermediate shaft and with the adjacent machine part which is to be connected. The axes (21) of the elastic joints (10) of each articulated lever (9) are perpendicular to an axial plane (22, 23) which is parallel to the articulated levers (9) and passes through the axis (8) of the intermediate shaft (4) and the axes (6, 7) of the machine parts (2, 3) that are to be connected.

[0024] With the novel coupling, the axes of the elastic joints of each articulated lever are aligned perpendicularly to an axial plane parallel to the articulated levers, which includes the axis of the intermediate shaft and the axes of the shafts to be connected. This configuration of the joints results in deformation of the elastomer bearing which is attributable primarily to torsion. This homogeneous deformation is tolerated better by the bearing. Only a very small portion of the deflection is cardanic. The bearing elements used may be optimized better to radial loads. Their spherical design may have larger radii; in the extreme case, cylindrical elements are used.

[0025] The articulated jointed levers are configured in a star pattern. The axes of the joints of each articulated lever are parallel. The preferred number of articulated levers used is four. In this case the axial plane may pass through the center of the two opposite articulated levers. Such a possibility also exists when using six articulated levers.

[0026] The axes of an articulated lever coupling are aligned so that they come to lie in a radial plane. Therefore, the intermediate shaft and the shafts to be joined are equipped with connecting flanges having radially and axially protruding claws. These claws support the bearing journals for the joints. The bearing journals may be integrally joined to the bearings or manufactured separately and mounted on the claws. In a number of applications it is advantageous if the

bearing journals have a conical shape having a non-blocking conical seating. This facilitates dismantling.

[0027] The joints may be equipped with spherical bearings. However, it is advantageous if at least one joint is equipped with an articulated lever having a cylindrical bearing. The cylindrical bearing allows greater forces to be transmitted. The elastomer layer of the bearing is preferably bonded to the adjacent metal parts by vulcanization.